

Application No. 09/334,510
Amendment dated August 12, 2005
In reply to Final Office Action dated May 20, 2005

Docket No. 12:2-4544

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 5-11, 17, 19, 20, 22 and 23 are pending in this application. Claims 5, 19 and 22 are independent. All of the pending claims stand rejected. By this amendment, independent claims 5, 19 and 22 are amended. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

All of the pending claims (i.e., claims 5-11, 17, 19, 20, 22 and 23) have been repeatedly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,987,186 to Oida et al. ("Oida") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,499,108 to Cotte et al. ("Cotte").

The Examiner indicates that Oida discloses the first step of the present invention (i.e., detecting that the scan head is mounted), and Cotte discloses the second step of the present invention (i.e., the original is sensed to trigger the scanning mechanism in the input device).

As Applicant explained in previous responses, in Cotte, the insertion of the documents to be scanned into the input device 214 triggers both the scanning mechanism and the input device software resident in the host 210.

In contrast, the present invention as commonly featured in independent claims 5, 19 and 22 requires a two-step scanning operation of a print device between the first and second step. For example, in a first step, the scanner software installed in the external computer is started when it is detected that the scan head is mounted on the print device. In a second step, the scanning operation may actually begin automatically when the original to be scanned is detected. As a result, after the first step of operation, the print device may enter into a communication

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standby state, e.g., a software for a user interface manager may be started and a dialog box such as shown in Fig. 4 may be displayed on the computer screen. See, for example, page 21, lines 9-24 of the original specification.

Applicant believes that the none of the cited references (i.e., Oida and Cotte), either taken alone or in combination, shows or suggests at least this aspect of the invention.

Accordingly, each of claims 5, 19 and 22 is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of Oida and Cotte, taken either alone or in combination, for at least the reasons discussed above.

Nonetheless, independent claims 5, 19 and 22 have been amended for further clarification of the present invention. In particular, each of amended claims 5, 19 and 22 recites that the print device automatically communicates with the external computer when the first detector detects the scan head and provides an interface to a user, and to execute the scanning by said scan software when said second detector detects the original to be scanned in the scanning in a case that said first detector detects said scan head or a scanning start is instructed by the user via said interface. The print device then executes the scanning when the second detector detects the original. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, at page 21, lines 9-24; step S603 in Fig. 6; steps S705 in Fig. 7; steps S903, S905 and S907 in Fig. 9; and steps S1002 and S1004 in Fig. 10 of the original specification.

Applicant believes that amended claims 5, 19 and 22 further distinguishes over the cited references.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of independent claims 5, 19 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicant has not individually addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because

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Applicant submits that the independent claims from which they respectively depend are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicant however reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

Applicant believes that the application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

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AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4544). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: August 12, 2005

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AUTHORIZATION

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